

Friday 18th October – Activity 5

The kinds of changes that we would like to see in the school grounds – completion of designs

Activity: classroom based

Original Schedule:

- Completion of any outstanding work. Artist and pupils to collect and collate individual designs and model.
- All other material (photos etc) to be collated and mounted, by pupils.
- Approval of draft design(s) by pupils and staff)

I explained the revised schedule to the pupils – who responded positively to this challenge.

Use of a key

I explained:

- the use of basic symbols for objects e.g. green circles for trees and dots with SC beside for sculptures, to enable them to concentrate on the location of the objects and not their appearance.
- that there should be no white paper showing, every piece of the garden area should be either grass, soil or water.



I told them that the aim was to produce 30 totally different designs by the end of the hour.

These much stricter parameters enabled the pupils to focus more effectively on their task, and they produced some great work.

Initially they produced one of each of the required items and placed them where they wanted them on the plan, they then 'infilled' the areas in between so that no white paper was showing – this was the area that they had

most problems with, the understanding that there were no 'white areas' in a garden!

Once they had their basic design in place, I allowed them to use coloured pens to add detail, to add additional items, and to design their sculptures/water features/play equipment.



The pupils, through their work with the Local Authority Teacher Adviser, were already familiar with the layout of plans and the use of symbols and keys. This made the task a lot easier. During the morning, the pupils were required to complete additional tasks, this meant that the session was a little fragmented – however it gave the pupils (and artist) a break from an otherwise long session, and once the pupils returned they were more focused on their task.

In the future, I think it would be beneficial for everyone to schedule in some breaks during this type of session.



Afternoon

After lunch, the pupils completed their designs, while two pupils assisted me in the garden with some final measurements required, and locating north with a compass and marking it on our plan.

What surprised me about the garden designs the pupils produced was:

Evaluation of the children's final ideas

Their variety - Although I had asked for 30 different designs I hadn't really expected to get them, but each design was totally different.

Their composition - Apart from the obvious requests - football pitches & swimming pools, what came across from all the designs was the pupils desire for a green space filled with plants and flowers, and an area of water.

Final presentation

The previous evening, Tom had prepared a presentation of the work that we had produced during the week, and it was agreed that we would use this as a basis for a discussion of this weeks project.

The head and LA Teacher Adviser attended the afternoon session, and the pupils explained to them about the different stages of the project, and the artwork they had created. Although not all of the pupils spoke about their work, those who did spoke very well and seemed to have a clear understanding of what they had achieved through the week. This presentation was a nice way to finish this stage of the project, for everyone concerned.



*End of project report
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